



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

SEP 27 2001

RECEIVED

OCT 01 2001

SURFACE WATER  
QUALITY BUREAU

Mr. James H. Davis, Ph.D., Chief  
Surface Water Quality Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Mr. Davis:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received the final documents *Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature on Middle Ponil Creek, Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature on Ponil Creek, Total Maximum Daily Load for Turbidity in Middle Ponil and Ponil Creek, and Total Maximum Daily Load for Metals (dissolved Aluminum) in Ponil Creek*. Based on our review, detailed in the enclosed documents, we conclude that the TMDLs listed above meet the requirements found in Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR 130.7. EPA is therefore pleased to approve the TMDL loads for:

Temperature for Middle Ponil Creek,  
Temperature for Ponil Creek,  
Turbidity for Middle Ponil and Ponil Creek, and  
Dissolved Aluminum on Ponil Creek.

EPA also acknowledges that these loadings will be incorporated as updates to the New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan. Please note that while included in the NMED submittal, implementation plans are not required by current regulations and this approval does not address the existence or the adequacy of any implementation plans contained within this submission.

We commend your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing and establishing these TMDLs. If you would like to discuss these approvals, please contact me or Willie Lane of my staff at (214) 665-8460.

Sincerely yours,



Sam Becker

Acting Director

• Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure